

OCCURRENCE OF AQUILA NÆVIA IN IRELAND.

Clonmel, Oct. 7, 1845.

To Richard Taylor.

DEAR FRIEND,—At the request of my friend William Thompson of Belfast, I write to inform thee of the occurrence in the south of Ireland of an eagle new to these countries, *Aquila nœvia* (Linn.). I need enter into no description of the bird, as of course it is well-described in works on continental ornithology, but will just remark, that it is in the immature or *spotted* stage of plumage; in contour it closely resembles the golden eagle, but is much smaller.

This specimen (which is now in my possession on loan) was shot on the estate of the Earl of Shannon, and was in a fallow-field in the act of devouring a rabbit at the time; this was in 1st month (Jan.) 1845; and another said to be similarly marked, but of rather a lighter colour, is stated to have been shot in the same place a few days before: both had been observed in the neighbourhood (between Castle-martyr and Clay Castle near Youghal, co. Cork) for several weeks previous, sweeping over the low grounds there.

It at present belongs to my friend Samuel Moss of Youghal, who had it from the gamekeeper who killed it, but I think it is probable that before long it will be placed in the Museum of Trinity College, Dublin.

I have made a rough coloured drawing of it which I sent to Wm. Yarrell*, with similar information to what this note contains.

I am, thy friend,

ROBERT DAVIS, Jun. *vis/*

ON MOUNTING MINUTE ALGÆ FOR THE MICROSCOPE.

In describing the method pursued by Mr. Thwaites in the preparation of algæ for microscopical observation, I stated that the cells were made of gold-size. As this is however liable to be softened and redissolved by the gold-size employed in fastening down the piece of thin glass, he found it advisable to look out for some more convenient substance.

He now uses two compositions, one suitable for very shallow, and the other for somewhat deeper cells. For the former he takes equal *measures* of finely-powdered lamp-black and litharge; a portion of this is rubbed down with equal parts of gold-size and black japan, and the cells immediately formed on the glass slides with a camel's hair pencil. As the composition hardens very rapidly, the cells should be made as quick as possible, and to save time and trouble, a good many should be made at once. If the mixture becomes too thick for use before all the intended cells have been made, a little more gold-size may be rubbed down with it, and this may be repeated if necessary, but the last-made cells will take longer drying than the first. Before the walls are quite hard, they may be flattened by pressing them with a piece of *wet* glass. If this is not done, it takes

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